

I came to the Tablona area in 1911 along with my father. We stayed at the home of Arthur Maxwell. While we stayed with them for a few days we helped them put their second crop of hay up. This field was irrigated from the Bridger Jim Ditch. They told us at the time that this ditch was in existence at the time they homesteaded the place in 1905. The Indians that were there had plots of ground that they were irrigating from this ditch.

To Whom It May Concern:

By Orson M. Allen
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No one could speak ill of this Old Timer. Mr. Thomas is retired now, but the comforts of his little home in Tabiona are open wide to the passer-by, as was the latch string on the pioneer cabin and the flap of his herder's tent.

It is said he has never turned an individual down who was in need, and it is known that he has loaned money to total strangers when they stated their real needs. Because of his kindness and the helping hand he has always extended, hundreds of western people love and admire him.

Aside from what Jessup Thomas has contributed to the livestock industry, he has also endeared himself in the hearts of all who have known him. Besides raising two families of his own (he remarried after his first wife died leaving him a young family to raise), he also gave several other boys and girls the comforts of his home, afforded them with the necessary things of life, and helped them to

Old Timer related that on another occasion an Indian known as Willy Jack visited him at camp. "He was invited to dine, and when he left my best saddle horse disappeared. I went to the spot where I had him tethered and found the prints of Indian moccasins which strongly indicated that the Indian had ridden away with the horse. The next day I rode to his camp but no one was at the Indian Camp save an Indian maiden. She spoke English fluently and stated that the Indian had not stolen my horse. The fact that I had not mentioned the horse being stolen to the Indian maiden was conclusive evidence that the Indian buck had taken it. I tried for some time to get it back, but it was more than a year, and then with the help of a half-breed Indian named Ab Murdock, that I finally

aid he raised up and after using a few well chosen words, asked him why he was trying to shoot his relatives. "Because I want to and I am going to shoot you too." With this he whirled around and aimed his gun at Thomas, who yelled back and said, "What are you going to do, shoot me and leave me up on this mountain without even a coat?" The Mexican jumped on his horse and was never seen in that part of the country again.

hat once while he was sitting on the side
his flocks, a Mexican herder came by and
dog, jumped off his horse and began firing at

what you have...
This old timer, who is not as old as many we have talked to, has lived a hard rugged life. The dangers he encountered on the range were added to by some Indians and Mexicans who were hard to get along with. He related

sheep? He counted and counted. The sheep were all white except one. It was black. He stepped back from the fence and said, "Sheep, sheep, the G-- D--- sheep. How many does your permit call for? I told him and he said, 'well, that's just

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...s and make trails through the heavy vegetation
... Creek before I could get my sheep to the
...on. There are a lot of washes and gulleys there
... were not there when I first began to ride the

"In the early days with which we find today he asked how he compared the forage on the rack before and after you cut a hay field? Many tell, I will like I have told others. How annoyed my horses on the branches of trees that are under the thick growth. Often I had to take my

and Keg Mountains in Western Utah. Sometimes we wintered in the area east and south of Myton in Kane County. Thomas claims to have ridden all the way from the Green River west to Heber City and then across the desert ranges in the western part of the state.

Young Jessup joined John Austin and for twelve years or more ranged with the Coleman family in the area that is known as Current Creek in Wasatch County and on the West Fork of the Snake River and trailed to the wintering ground near

Coleman flocks. Summer and winter ranges were apart in those days, the summer range being in the Grand Canyon, where the lush desert grasses and shrubs furnished an abundance of food. The wintering flocks were not far distant.

the age of fourteen he was introduced to the work was to follow the rest of his life. He began to herd His first job, which was for George Coleman, took to the area of Tooele. For two years he helped care

...an important part in the life of Jessup Thomas. Young Jessup was only exposed to an education, for it from bike each day to the school house located four miles from his home. Early spring and late fall work took him out of school, as did very often the heavy snow of winter days. So for these reasons the education of Jessup Thomas was not as good as that of the other boys of the town.

my of this family, like the communities of the frontier of that time, was not stable. Settlers were beginning to dig in by building homes, breaking up lands, constructing irrigation systems and pushing the livestock industry, which later was to

... was born in Heber City, Wasatch County, October 6, 1878. Young Thomas was left an orphan at the age of seven; but coming from a large family of eleven, through the caring hands of older brothers and sisters, he grew up to be a man. The loss of family life during his childhood was not easy. The

Written by the Fish & Game in 1954
up Thomas, the son of a pioneer

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